



**CALIFORNIA
HIGH-SPEED RAIL
AUTHORITY**

Weekly Executive Director's Report, October 19-26, 2009

FROM: Mehdi Morshed
TO: Authority Board Members

TOPIC / UPDATE	LINE SECTION	AUTHORITY STAFF	RELEVANT DATE	NEXT STEP / ACTION NEEDED
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TOP ISSUES

D.C. Trip

Chairman Pringle and Board member Katz traveled to Washington D.C. on October 20-21 and met with members of California's congressional delegation and others to support California's ARRA application for high-speed rail funding. They were joined by representatives of the Authority's regional transportation agency partners, LA Metro, OCTA, and SamTrans.

All

Mark Kadesh, Carrie
Pourvahidi

10/20-21/2009

POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

None to report this period

ENGINEERING/ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS

Alternatives Analysis Workshop With FRA

The Authority, along with the Federal Railroad Administration and the state Attorney General's office, recommended alignments to be carried forward in the Environmental Review Process, to be documented as part of a Draft Alternatives Analysis Report. As part of that process, the location of a single station option to serve the Visalia/Hanford/Tulare area was recommended to be carried forward.

Merced - Fresno
and
Fresno -
Bakersfield

Carrie Bowen,
Tom Tracy,
Peter Valentine

10/13/2009

Set up and hold Agency/Public
review and comment meetings

Altamont Project Scoping

The NOP was issued Oct. 22 for the Altamont Corridor Rail Project, a project separate from the high-speed train system, and scoping meetings will begin in that Stockton-to-San Jose region next month.

Altamont
Corridor Rail
Project

Dan Leavitt,
John Harrison

10/22/2009

Scoping meetings are scheduled for:

Nov. 10 - Livermore;
Nov. 12 - Stockton;
Nov. 17 - Fremont;
Nov. 18 - San Jose

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES**Legislative Hearing**

Deputy Director Dan Leavitt provided testimony to the Assembly Select Committee on Rail Transportation on Thursday, Oct. 22. The committee, chaired by Asm. Mike Davis, held a hearing to discuss "the status of rail transportation in California in light of the economic downturn and the impact of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act."

Program

Steve Schnaidt, Dan
Leavitt

10/22/2009

- The 2-hour-long hearing can be viewed here: <http://www.calchannel.com/channel/viewVideo/784>

OUTREACH EFFORT HIGHLIGHTS**San Joaquin Valley Partnership**

Central Valley outreach team participated in the CA Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley's annual summit in Fresno.

Merced -
Bakersfield

Jeff Barker,
Carrie Bowen

10/23/2009

Redwood City Council

The regional outreach team provided a project update to the Redwood City Council at its regular public meeting, and the council voted unanimously to adopt an outreach plan for high-speed rail in the city.

San Jose- San
Francisco

Jeff Barker,
Bob Doty

10/26/2009

Fresno County Supervisors

Regional Director Carrie Bowen will update the Fresno County Board of Supervisors at it's regular meeting on Oct. 26.

Merced -
Bakersfield

Jeff Barker,
Carrie Bowen

10/27/2009

MEDIA

Fresno Bee Editorial

The Fresno Bee editorialized Monday, Oct. 26, in support of California's bid to receive a significant portion of available ARRA funding for high-speed rail. The editorial read, in part, "There's no better place to start with high-speed rail than California. It can be viewed in its entirety here: <http://www.fresnobee.com/opinion/story/1686992.html>

All

Jeff Barker,
Carrie Bowen

10/26/2009

Support for Transbay Terminal

The *San Francisco Chronicle* carried both:

- A news story about Senator Dianne Feinstein's support for ARRA money for the Transbay Terminal (she wrote a letter to Transportation Sec. Ray LaHood), and
- An op-ed by Danny Curtin of the California Conference of Carpenters supporting California's ARA bid in general and the Transbay Transit Center in specific. Mr. Curtin's op-ed can be read here: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/10/21/EDG71A8635.DTL>

San Jose- San
Francisco

Jeff Barker

10/21/2009

PUBLIC EVENTS

Public Information Meetings in Gilroy

A public meeting/open house was held to present the full range of alternatives suggested during scoping. Board member Diridon and Assemblymember Galgiani were present. This meeting followed similar meetings in San Jose (10/6/2009) and Merced (10/8/2009).

San Jose -
Merced

Dan Leavitt,
Gary Kennerley, Jeff
Barker

10/12/2009

Alternatives Analysis workshop
with the Authority and Federal
Railroad Administration
scheduled for November 12.

Scoping Meetings

Public, open house-style scoping meetings continue within the section this week. Nearly 600 people have attended the meetings in San Diego, Riverside and Los Angeles counties so far.

Upcoming scoping meetings:

10/26/2009-West Covina;

10/28/2009-El Monte;

10/29/2009-Pomona

Los Angeles -
San Diego via
the Inland
Empire

Dan Leavitt,
Jose Martinez,
Jeff Barker

10/13/2009 -
11/3/2009

The final scoping meetings in the section will be held the following week:

11/2/2009-Ontario;

11/3/2009-San Bernardino

OTHER AUTHORITY BUSINESS

RFPs, RFQs

The Authority conducted interviews for a Statewide Communications and Outreach contractor on Thursday, Oct. 22 and will conduct interviews for a Program Management Oversight contractor on Wednesday, Oct. 28, in order to make staff recommendations.

Program

Jeff Barker,
Carrie Pourvahidi

10/22/2009,
10/28/2009

Both recommendations will be brought to the Board's Nov. 5 meeting.

LOOKING AHEAD...

Board Meeting and Committee Meetings

The Board will meet on Nov. 5. On the day prior, Wednesday, Nov. 4, two Board sub-committees will meet for the first time. See all of the agendas here:
<http://www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov/library/Default.aspx?ItemID=4856>

All

Mehdi Morshed

11/4-5/2009